

NEXT Wednesday morning Sir Winston Churchill will be presented at Benjamin Franklin House with the Philadelphia Franklin Medal designed by Sir Jacob Epstein, and a specially bound copy of "Mr. Franklin," an illustrated collection of some of Franklin's early letters.

January 17, the 250th anniversary of Franklin's birth, will be marked by decorative jambunting both here and in America; but the most lasting memorial of this great European statesman undoubtedly is the thirty-volume edition of his papers sponsored by Yale University and the American Philosophical Society, which Franklin himself founded.

Based in Paris, Mr. Bell has such plans projected after Peter died for lack of funds (Gaston's letters cannot find a publisher, and in France the collected letters of Saint-Beuve and Mérimée have come in an anomalous half). I asked Mr. Bell if he had given up the assistant editor of the Franklin Papers, how he stood in this respect.

#### Pressured Scholarship

"We are about to get by," he said. "Tim and wife gave us 40,000 dollars and the Philosophical Society put up another 17,500. But we've spent 40,000 this year on photocasts alone. We've a permanent staff of five, and of course we have to have reasonable travelling expenses." (Mr. Bell lodges in a small hotel and lunches not at the Savoy but at a City chop-house, the "George & Vulture," which Franklin himself patronised.)

Mr. Bell's English contacts, of whom Sir Lewis Namier is probably the most eminent, will doubtless view his conditions of work with envy, as much as with admiration.

#### Inscrutable East

THE Japanese are indeed a very curious people.

This is the cover to a folio-size, 350-page propaganda-magazine distributed in the New Year in a



luxurious wooden case by the Asahi Shimbun Newspaper concern.

Proudly the Asahi writes: "This print by Shukran interprets effectively the role of Edobel the villain. The eyes are slanted, the lips are tight and the open hands emerge from the bosom."

All I can say is that no ex-

# PEOPLE and THINGS: By ATTICUS

prisoner-of-war of the Japanese could have done a better job on a caricature of "This is Japan."

#### Study of Strategy

SIR ARTHUR BEYANT is publishing next autumn a study of Lord Alanbrooke's wartime strategy called "Turn of the Tide." The Field-Marshal, who was helping Sir Arthur with that work, was the Government's chief military adviser for the last four years of the war.

Based on the immense mass of Lord Alanbrooke's diaries and autobiographical notes, the bulk of which cannot be published for many years—it describes Great Britain's military recovery and achievement in the decisive years between Dunkirk and the Italian surrender of 1943.

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#### Miss Davies of Wales

OF the seven-year pictures from the National Museum of Wales which are now on show at Agnew's, thirty-one were bequeathed to the museum in 1951 by Miss Gwenllian Davies, C.H. By this one act she metamorphosed a distinguished painter into the nucleus of a national gallery.

Miss Davies's fortune came from coal: such was her modesty that not many people outside Wales may know that her patronage extended also to music and more particularly to Welsh folk. The Greyson Press (named after her house in Monmouthshire) was the most fastidious and, where illustration was concerned, one of the most creative of all the true private presses.

Her publications were in the main, connoisseurs' reprints of established classics; but one exception has always stuck in my mind as an example of inspired regional planning—the elaborate edition of "The Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam," retranslated into Welsh.

#### Seventeen Pyramids

A BRITISH firm, Sir Alexander Gibb and Partners, has been chosen to act as the consulting engineers for the two largest hydro-electric projects of 1956—the Kariba Dam in Central Africa and the Assuan Dam in Egypt.

Both projects should transform the economy of their countries, but at the moment not even the planners know for certain which dam will form the largest reservoir. They will be the biggest artificial lakes in the world.

The man ultimately responsible for these projects is Angus Paton, a shrewd London-educated Scot who has designed wharves in Rangoon, a harbour in Syria, factories in Turkey, and the Guinness Brewery at Park Royal.

On the Aswan Dam site the bed

of the Nile is covered with sand and silt to a depth of 600 feet, while the fact that 80 per cent. of the annual flow of the river pours through the Aswan gap in four and a half months adds vastly to the difficulties of the scheme.

The dam itself will be seventeen times the size of the Great Pyramid.

#### Boat Day

UNABASHED by the fog that swathed Olympia, the Royal Yachting Association held a flag day at the National Boat Exhibition on Tuesday and raised £2000 for the British Olympic Association.

The cost of sending the Australia and fourteen men to Australia will be £7,000.

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other Olympic flag days at an industrial scale of penicillin, cortisone, streptomycin, and, latterly, the BCG vaccine for the prevention of tuberculosis.

This year there is an added incentive for raising the money. The Duke of Edinburgh, who will open the Olympic Games at Melbourne on November 29, is President-elect of the Royal Yachting Association. As Sir Geoffrey remarked, "The horse people did it, and I think the yachtsmen can too."

#### Vitaminiser

IT is now only a matter of days before Sir Harry Jephcott retires at the age of 65 from his post as managing director of Glaxo Laboratories.

Not only is he a pharmacist of international repute (it was largely through his work in his early thirties that our first proprietary Vitamin D was made available to doctors), but he has sponsored the production on

prosperous baby-food and there has substituted the more easily digested Ostermilk (which, when broken down, means just what it is: dried milk plus Vitamin D—oestrelin).

Prone in his character to good humour and a sense of adventurous decisiveness. Needing, more than thirty years ago, to import a few pairs of the famous Wistar albino rats from Philadelphia, he smuggled them across his desk in a "foreign boat," he said. "Luckily they never swept under the bed."

#### Mr. Cox Comes to Town

SIR DAVID ECCLES has some interesting stories to tell. Mr. Trenchard Cox who takes up his new post as Director of the Victoria and Albert next week. At this museum there is no need to worry about the predilections of the trustees, for the Director is solely

responsible to the Minister of Education.

Mr. Cox's first task will probably be an inquiry into the reasons for the poor attendance at the Wellington Museum in Apadé House. After that he will be able to add to his already extensive one of David's favourite projects, the improved furnishing of our Embassies overseas.

Every year the Victoria and Albert offer legacies and gifts of fine furniture. Some of these gifts have been selected if, as often happens, the museum has a comparable exhibit. Now Sir David Eccles hopes that benefactors will send their fine pieces overseas to embellish our embassies and consulates.

#### Wrightman Prospects

NOW that Miss Maureen Connolly is on the sidelines and the tennis world has turned professional, this year's American Wrightman Cup team would anyway not have been its usual devastating self.

Mrs. Margaret Dupont, the American captain, who doesn't play, has told Susan Neel that she will also not be competing. She does not want to leave her four-year-old son, Billy, but hopes to come in two years' time.

If the twelve-year-old she who last held the Cup, the British team does not this time make a strong showing against the American newcomers, it will again, and more forcibly, be suggested that the match should not be played every year.

#### The Infernal Machine

TWO days before Christmas, a resident of Teddington received a strange gift as a gift from a friend in India. To have it delivered it had been brought over by an obliging acquaintance, who had struggled through the Customs with the bird among his baggage. It was very large, very heavy, and it was prominently labelled "READY STUFFED."

On Christmas morning the grateful recipient saw the bird committed to the oven, watched the heat adjusted, and left it to cook. Later a tremendous ex-

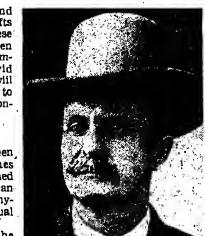
plosion in the kitchen blew the oven door off its hinges and scattered turkey, bones and glass over the room.

Lodged in the smouldering remains was all that was left of an Irish whiskey bottle.

#### The Ad-Man . . .

"I'm a she-wolf from Bitter Creek and it's my night to howl!" Crescent Sam stepped into the kerosome glow of the biggest saloon in Perry, Oklahoma, and fired a shotgun into the air.

Suddenly, he spotted the stern-



faced peace officer you see here. He aimed and pulled.

Crescent Sam snarled and bellowed, made the fatal mistake of trying to shoot Bill Wrightman. Wrightman who could hold the ace of spades at thirty feet. Wrightman who in ten years said, "I never shot a man in my life and missed him."

#### . . . Cometh

BILL TIGHMAN was no legendary gun fighter. His hardy pioneer family and remarkable art career made him a legend in his own right. An American

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